

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 18, claims 7 to 17 and 19 to 23 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **II. Allowed Claims 7 to 17**

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 7 to 17 are allowed.

### **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 19 to 23. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 19, 20, 22 and 23 has been rewritten herein in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 19, 20, 22 and 23 are in condition for immediate allowance. Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and is therefore also in condition for immediate allowance.

### **IV. Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,592,533. While Applicant does not agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 18 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

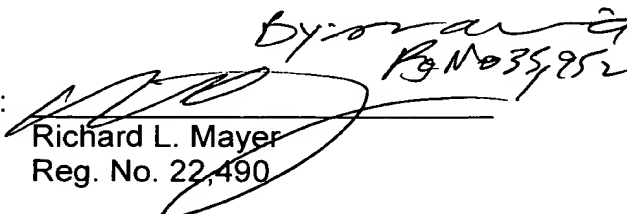
V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Dated: 9/30/04

By:  *By: [Signature] Reg No 35,852*  
Richard L. Mayer  
Reg. No. 22,490

One Broadway  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 425-7200

**CUSTOMER NO. 26646**